

The Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church is not only the oldest African-American congregation in the state of Georgia, but also bears the distinct honor of being one of the oldest minority congregations in the country. Named for the street on which it is located, the Church has become the primary place of worship for many generations of the most prominent black families in Macon. It also enjoys the privilege of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places in America, another indication of its importance in the local, state, and national communities.

The story of Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church, which began as a small group of slaves worshipping in a small "African Chapel" and has grown into an expansive and successful church, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church in Macon, GA for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD W. BOERS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dick Boers, who passed from this life on Wednesday October 2, 2013. Dick's family and friends will remember him in a memorial service at the Toledo Botanical Gardens on October 15, 2013.

Dick Boers was "a man for all seasons." A horticulturalist and landscape architect, Dick was instrumental in the establishment of the Toledo Botanical Gardens, then known as Crosby Gardens. He was later named Trustee Emeritus of the Gardens' Board and was affectionately known as "Mr. Crosby." The gardens were a signature achievement in a distinguished career.

Born in 1941 in Rochester, New York, Richard Boers graduated from Cornell University. He was pursuing his graduate degree at the University of Michigan when he was recruited by the City of Toledo as a seasonal park designer. In 1965 he was named the City's Forestry Commissioner, at age 25 the youngest in the city's history and the youngest in the nation. Dick spent the next thirty years in the City of Toledo's Parks Department. A dedicated public service, Dick's efforts during his tenure were evident and everywhere. He was widely credited with "greening up" industrial Toledo. Even as he served the City and the citizens of Toledo, Dick was a respected member of several professional organizations and his talent was sought by many.

The Toledo Blade noted that "A sign in Dick's office summed up who he was, 'There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.' Philosophers' words indeed, and characteristic of Dick's wisdom.

Dick Boers' efforts of his lifetime are all around us in our city. His legacy is a gift of beautiful landscapes to be enjoyed for genera-

tions to come. When the flowering pear trees burst into bloom in early spring in downtown Toledo, and along the city's thoroughfares, we shall fondly remember Dick Boers. When the annual arts festival is held at the Toledo Botanical Gardens, we shall say thank you to Dick Boers. When native plant species like the blue lupine displace invasive species, we express appreciation to Dick Boers for beautifying our parks and environs. For every part of nature he tended and stewarded to the next generation, we say thank you always to Dick Boers.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,149,193,429,752.16. We've added \$6,522,316,380,839.08 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall No. 572, I was unavoidably detained in Georgia and could not make it to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

FURTHERING ASBESTOS CLAIM TRANSPARENCY (FACT) ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 982) to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524 of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos; and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 982, the misleadingly-named "FACT Act." When the Congress should be considering important legislation to replace the sequester, address our budget deficits in a balanced way, and reform our broken immigration system, we are instead using our scarce legislative time to consider this cynical, counterproductive bill that specifically targets victims suffering from diseases caused by asbestos exposure.

Under the cloak of "transparency and accountability," this legislation would needlessly force asbestos trusts to release personal claim information about victims. It would also allow asbestos defendants to demand unlimited and irrelevant information from asbestos trusts—at any point in a proceeding. The cynical intent of this provision is to burden the asbestos trusts with so many requests for information (from deep-pocketed, corporate defendants) that they will have to spend time and resources fulfilling those information requests, thus delaying trust recoveries by victims. This is especially concerning considering mesothelioma usually kills its victims within 4 to 18 months of diagnosis.

Finally, the allegations of fraud within the trust process are simply untrue. The error rate in the asbestos trust process has been shown to be less than one-half of one percent. Any examples of fraud found are rare and isolated incidents, and are aptly addressed by state courts. Simply put, this legislation is nothing but a legislative handout to the corporations that have (and continue to) subject workers to unsafe working conditions. The one-sided nature of this bill was further exposed when its supporters defeated an amendment that would have required the corporate defendants to disclose information about the location of their disease-causing asbestos products.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 982.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT RODNEY PAINTER FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Staff Sergeant Rodney D. Painter, Jr. for nearly 11 years of service to our nation in the United States Air Force.

As a member of the 19th Security Forces Squadron in Little Rock, Arkansas, Staff Sergeant Painter implemented the first Discipline and Adjustment Board and the Parole Board with First Sergeants. He coordinated with the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Center to develop a new confinement floor plan and led an extensive camera project to certify a new confinement facility that ensures the security of inmates.

Staff Sergeant Painter has been generous in his philanthropy, in the most recent year volunteering over 40 hours with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to provide guidance and mentorship to local youth. In the same year, he also volunteered over 20 hours with the United Way Homeless Shelter, strengthening the bonds between the United States Air Force and local communities. I commend Staff Sergeant Painter for his dedication to serving our nation and the Central Florida community. It is because of men and women like Staff Sergeant Painter who give of themselves to our country that we can live in a free country.